

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 120127Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO USLO RIYADH

S E C R E T STATE 204565

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, YS

SUBJECT: RADICALISM OF PDRY

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU SANA 3820 FOR YOUR INFORMATION,
REVIEW, AND ANY COMMENT YOU MAY FEEL APPROPRIATE.

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2. EMBASSY SANA'S ASSESSMENT OF THE NATURE, INTENT, AND
POTENTIAL CAPABILITY OF PDRY REGIME IS BOTH THOUGHTFUL
AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING. VERY PRELIMINARY DEPARTMENT RE-
ACTION IS THAT WE WOULD AGREE PRESENT PDRY REGIME HAS GOOD
PROSPECTS FOR CONSOLIDATING ITS GRIP ON THE COUNTRY.
MOREOVER, AFTER TEN YEARS OF INCREASINGLY RADICAL GOVERN-
MENT IN SOUTH YEMEN AND INCREASING SOVIET INFLUENCE THERE,

WE THINK BURDEN OF PROOF IS NOW ON THOSE WHO WOULD ASSERT THAT NATIONALIST AND TRADITIONAL SOCIAL FORCES IN SOUTH YEMEN WILL FRUSTRATE EFFORTS OF REGIME TO IMPOSE OVER TIME AN ALIEN POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC PHILOSOPHY AND TO MAINTAIN CLOSE TIES WITH SOVIETS WHILE REMAINING ISOLATED FROM ARAB NEIGHBORS.

3. AFTER GHASHMI'S ASSASSINATION IN YEMEN, WE WOULD HESITATE TO ARGUE WITH THE PROPOSITION THAT PDRY REGIME POSES THREAT OF ASSASSINATION AND OTHER TERRORIST ACTS TO

ITS NEIGHBORS.

4. WE WOULD AGREE THAT PDRY REGIME IS DEDICATED TO FOSTERING POLITICAL SUBVERSION AND EVENTUAL RADICAL REVOLUTION IN CONSERVATIVE ARAB COUNTRIES. IT WOULD SEEM THAT ITS POTENTIAL FOR DOING SO IS, AT THIS STAGE AT LEAST, MORE A FUNCTION OF THE INTERNAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WEAKNESSES OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES THAN OF ANY INHERENT APPEAL OF RADICALISM AS MANIFESTED IN PDRY.

5. WE INVITE ATTENTION PARTICULARLY TO ARGUMENT IN REFTTEL THAT PDRY WILL IN FAIRLY NEAR TERM POSE A SERIOUS MILITARY THREAT TO ITS NEIGHBORS, AND TO COMMENT THAT REGIME "MUST JUSTIFY ITSELF BY EXPANDING." CLEARLY REGIME MUST JUSTIFY ITSELF BY PREACHING THE APPLICABILITY
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OF ITS POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES BUT THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM EXPANSION OF PDRY ITSELF. AS USG CONTINUES TO ASSESS POLICY TOWARD ARABIAN PENINSULA IN LIGHT OF SITUATION IN SOUTH ARABIA, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE VIEWS OF ADDRESSEES ON WHETHER PDRY REGIME HAS A REAL CAPABILITY FOR MILITARY ADVENTURISM.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE IN PARTICULAR EMBASSY'S MOSCOW'S JUDGMENT ON WHETHER SOVIETS VIEW SOUTH YEMEN AS A REALISTIC BASE FOR EXPANDING THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, OR WHETHER THEY REGARD PDRY MORE AS A SOURCE OF MILITARY FACILITIES FOR OPERATIONS ELSEWHERE AND A MARXIST REGIME WORTH SUSTAINING AS A LONG-TERM TOE-HOLD IN PENINSULA. CHRISTOPHER

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